GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4844
ANSWERED ON:20.12.2000
TACKLING TALIBAN MENACE
CHANDRAKANT BHAURAO KHAIRE;IQBAL AHMED SARADGI

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Russia, USA,UK and other counrtries have agreed to work together to tackle the Taliban terrorist activities in Afghanistan and also in India, Russa and USA;

(b) if so, whether any concrete proposals in this regard have been worked out to meet this situation jointly;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether all these countries have also raised the matter in the United Nations; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS(SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

(a) to (c): India and Russia had decided to set up a Joint Working Group on Afghanistan during the visit of His Excellency Mr. Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian federation to India; on October 2-5, 2000.The first meeting of the group was held in New Delhi on November 20-21, 2000 in which both sides reviewed the situation prevailing in Afghanistan in all its dimensions and agreed to continue their cooperation at the bilateral level as well as multilaterally in this respect.

During the visit of Prime Minister to the United States in September, 2000, the two sides agreed to establish a framework of bilateral dialogue on issues of mutual concern relating to Afghanistan. The two countries are currently discussing the structure and scope of this bilateral dialogue.

(d) & (e) Several countries have raised their concern about the situation in Afghanistan in the United Nations.The UN Security Council passed a resolution in October, 1999, imposing sanctions against the Taliban. The UN General Assembly has also adopted resolutions critical of the Taliban.